

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-17, and 20-24 are currently pending. Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 18, and 19 have been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1, 2, 8, 14-17, and 23 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Drawings were objected to by the Draftsperson; Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-17, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,512,593 to Yashiki (hereinafter “the ‘593 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,917,615 to Reifman et al. (hereinafter “the ‘615 patent”); and Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘593 and ‘615 patents, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,441,916 to Toyoda (hereinafter “the ‘916 patent”).¹

In response to the objection to the Drawings, submitted herewith are Replacement Sheets for Figures 1-13. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is believed to have been overcome.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method for transmitting a facsimile, comprising: (1) creating an image, (2) inputting parameters of a fax machine to a graphical user interface of a general purpose computer, *the parameters including a password of the fax machine*; (3) forming an electronic mail address that includes an Internet electronic mail address of the fax machine, *the input password of the fax machine*, and a fax number of a second fax machine; (4) generating a fax request as an electronic mail message, the electronic mail message

¹ Applicants note that Claims 14 and 15, which depend from Claims 12 and 13, respectively, were rejected as being unpatentable over the ‘593 and ‘615 patents, while Claims 12 and 13 were rejected as being unpatentable over the ‘513, ‘615, and ‘916 patents. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated rejection of Claims 14 and 15 is erroneous.

including the electronic mail address and the image; and (5) transmitting the electronic mail message to the fax machine. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the parameters of the fax machine include a password of the fax machine, and to include limitations recited in dependent Claim 4. Accordingly, the changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.²

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2 and 5-7) under 35 U.S.C. §103 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1. However, since Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations recited in dependent Claim 4, Applicant will address the patentability of amended Claim 1 with respect to the references cited in the rejection of Claim 4.

The '593 patent is directed to an Internet facsimile apparatus and relay apparatus selection method. In particular, the '593 patent discloses a method for selecting the nearest Internet facsimile apparatus suitable for use as a relay apparatus. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '593 patent fails to disclose inputting parameters of a fax machine to a graphical user interface, wherein the parameters include a password of the fax machine, as recited in amended Claim 1. Further, Applicant submits that the '593 patent fails to disclose forming an electronic mail address that includes the input password, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The '615 patent is directed to a system and method for a facsimile load balancing. As shown in Figures 6-10, the '615 patent discloses that a fax number and a name can be entered by a user using a graphical user interface. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '615 patent fails to disclose inputting parameters of a fax machine to a graphical user interface, wherein the parameters include a password of the fax machine. Further, Applicant

² See, e.g., Figure 7.

submits that the '615 patent fails to disclose forming an electronic mail address that includes the input password of the fax machine, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The '916 patent is directed to an Internet facsimile apparatus and e-mail communication method. The '916 patent discloses that, when image information is transferred to a G3 fax machine, the e-mail address includes a password indicating not only the password of the Internet fax machine to be used as a relay, but also that the fax is intended for a G3 fax machine.³ However, Applicant respectfully submits that the '916 patent fails to disclose inputting parameters of a fax machine to a graphical user interface, wherein the parameters include a password of the fax machine, and forming an electronic mail address that includes the input password, as recited in amended Claim 1. The '916 patent does not disclose that the password of an Internet fax machine is entered using a graphical user interface.

Accordingly, no matter how the teachings of the '593, '615, and '916 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest inputting parameters of a fax machine to a graphical user interface, wherein the parameters include a password of the fax machine, and form an electronic mail address that includes the input password of the fax machine, as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2 and 5-7) patentably defines over any proper combination of the '593, '615, and '916 patents.

Independent Claims 8, 16, and 23 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in amended Claim 1. Moreover, Claims 8, 16, and 23 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 8, 16, and 23 (and all associated dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to Claims 8, 16, and 23.

³ See '916 patent, column 3, lines 42-57.

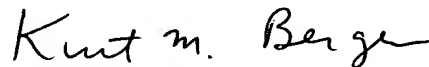
Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of dependent Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 18, and 19 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of dependent Claim 24 is rendered moot by the present amendment to independent Claim 23, as discussed above.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, 16, and 23 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '593, '615, and '916 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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